Fourth Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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PROPOSED FINAL DOCUMENT LANGUAGE RELATING TO ARTICLE X

Working Paper presented by Mexico

Paragraph 2 of Article X of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) reads as follows:

"Twenty-five years after the entry into force of the Treaty, a conference shall be convened to decide whether the Treaty shall continue in force indefinitely, or shall be extended for an additional fixed period or periods. This decision shall be taken by a majority of the Parties to the Treaty".

The history of the NPT negotiations clearly shows that there is a close link between the Treaty's provisions regarding nuclear disarmament measures, on the one hand, and the review conference and its limited duration, on the other. It also shows that the duration of the Treaty is connected to the provisions of Article VI and that the permanent viability of the NPT will depend on successful negotiations of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, as the most important measure related to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament.

The Final Document should contain the following:

Since the provisons of paragraph 2 of Article X were drafted in connection with the provisions of Article VI, it is incumbent upon the nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty to begin to meet their obligations set forth in Article VI in order to achieve a significant extension of the NPT beyond 1995.

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